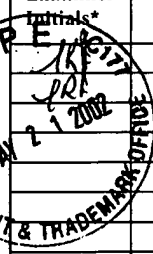
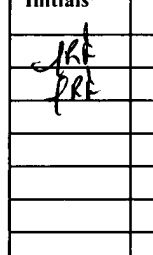
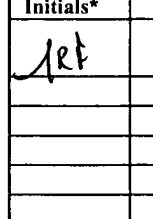


Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	09/777,661
				Confirmation Number	9239
				Filing Date	February 7, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Makoto TSURUTA
				Art Unit	1733
				Examiner Name	Justin R. Fischer
				Attorney Docket Number	Q62661
Sheet	1	of	1		

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
	AA	5,996,662	A	12-07-1999	CLUZEL
	AB	3,392,773	A	07-16-1968	WARREN, ET AL.
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	AI				

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
	AJ	EP	0 712 738	A	05-22-1996	SUMITOMO RUBBER	
	AK	FR	2 566 334	A	12-17-1985	BRIDGESTONE CORP.	NO
	AL						
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OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
	AT	Patent Abstracts of Japan, Vol. 016, No. 498 (M-1325) (10-15-1992) as it relates to JP 04-183605 issued 06-30-1992 to Yokohama Rubber Co.	
	AU		
	AV		
	AW		
	AX		
	AY		

Examiner Signature	<i>Justin Fischer</i>	Date Considered	12/30/02
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.